

grocery store with his father, brothers, and sisters. He was known for extending credit with no questions asked and for offering free groceries to those who could not afford to purchase them. In 1967, Mr. Arrañaga moved to San José, California, and began work at Food Villa in Santa Clara. As a dedicated employee for 20 years, he built a reputation for extraordinary customer service and was admired for his sense of humor. Mr. Arrañaga was also a member of the Retail Clerks Local 428 Union.

Mr. Arrañaga was active in the community both in Del Rio and San José. Elected to the Del Rio City Council in 1958, he was the second Latino in the town's history to hold the office. As a city councilman, Mr. Arrañaga formed a partnership with the neighboring border town of Ciudad Acuña, Mexico, in order to strengthen the relationships between the United States and Mexico. While performing his civic duties, he developed the city's first fire station and created high-quality low-income housing in the disadvantaged Del Rio neighborhood of San Felipe. The development's first street was named "Arrañaga Avenue" to recognize his dedicated efforts to the city and the project. Mr. Arrañaga was also an active member of the Lions Club in Del Rio, where he was the first Latino to serve as President and Zone Chairman. He was also a member of the club's recruitment committee. While in San José, he was an active member of the Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Alviso, California.

A devoted family man, Victor was married to his wife, Ina, for 54 years. Together they raised seven children, eighteen grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Mr. Arrañaga encouraged his children to pursue higher education and to be active in their communities. He also imparted and practiced his core principles of love, honor, and respect for family to all of those around him.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in remembering and honoring Mr. Victor Manuel Arrañaga for his service to his community and his dedication to his family. He was a man of great integrity and an inspiration to all of us.

CONGRATULATING NORAH JONES ON HER GRAMMY AWARDS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to share my admiration with you for one of my district's most popular artists, Norah Jones.

During the 45th annual Grammy Awards held on February 24, 2003, Norah Jones was awarded 5 Golden Gramophone statuettes for Album of the Year, Best New Artist, Record of the Year for the single "Don't Know Why," Best Pop Vocal Album, and Best Female Pop Vocal Album.

Norah Jones has shown a strong aptitude for music since childhood. Ms. Jones graduated from the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts of Dallas, Texas in 1997.

Norah Jones follows in the footsteps of the many successful Booker T. Washington High School alumni, such as Erykah Badu and Roy Hargrove.

Norah Jones later went on to the University of North Texas to major in jazz piano. Already career-minded, she knew that a solid foundation of jazz piano could pave the way for better things.

Mr. Speaker, Norah Jones is an inspiration to our youth, not only in Texas but across the nation, that their dreams can come true, and that they should reach for the stars.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOMETOWN HEROES SURVIVOR BENEFITS ACT

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our nation's public safety officers for their commitment to our communities and service to our nation. I am re-introducing my bipartisan legislation, the Hometown Heroes Survivor Benefits Act, and I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important initiative.

Every day, public safety officers protect our families and possessions from fire, keep our streets safe, and are the first to respond to an emergency. Across this nation, our law enforcement officers and corrections officers, firefighters, and emergency medical service workers are dedicated and prepared, and when we call on them, they risk their lives for us.

Heart attacks and strokes are one of the greatest threats to public safety officers, especially firefighters. In fact, almost half of all firefighter deaths are due to heart attacks and strokes. Fighting fires is dangerous, exhausting, and extremely stressful work. Indeed, a firefighter's chances of suffering a heart attack or stroke greatly increases when he or she puts on their turnout gear and rushes into a building to fight a fire. Likewise, law enforcement and corrections officers and EMS workers face daily situations that put stress and strain on the heart.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, last year 102 firefighters died while on duty, affecting 86 communities in 35 states. In the wake of their tragic losses, many of the families of these brave first responders received financial assistance from the Public Safety Officer Death Benefit, which was created by Congress over 25 years ago to provide these families with help in their time of need. However, some of these families are denied these benefits because of a glitch in the law.

During the last Congress, I introduced the Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefits Act to correct this technicality in the Public Safety Officer Benefit. This bipartisan legislation will allow the families of public safety officers who have died from a heart attack or stroke while on duty, or within 24-hours after participating in a training exercise or responding to an emergency situation, to receive this benefit.

Last year, 113 of our colleagues cosponsored this bill, and the House unanimously passed it. Unfortunately, we were not able to move the bill through the U.S. Senate before adjournment, despite the strong support of several Senators from both parties.

Today I, along with Representatives STENY HOYER, CURT WELDON, MIKE OXLEY, and 40

other members of this House, are re-introducing the Hometown Heroes Survivor Benefits Act. During this time of increased awareness and concern regarding the threat of terrorism, we are calling on our public safety officers to work longer and harder than ever before. This legislation shows our public safety officers and their families that we recognize their selfless contributions to protecting us and our communities, and that we stand with them.

We urge every Member in this House to join our bipartisan coalition by cosponsoring this critical legislation and working with us to pass it into law.

COMMENDING DR. KOICHI NISHIMURA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Dr. Koichi Nishimura and his contributions to the Bay Area and Japanese-American communities. Dr. Nishimura will soon retire from Soletron Corporation after leading the company to its current standing as one of the world's largest electronics manufacturing services company. He has accomplished this through years of hard work and dedication to his friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

Born in 1938 in Pasadena, California, Dr. Nishimura is a Nisei, or second-generation Japanese American. Like many of his fellow Nisei, he has experienced strong Western and Eastern influences. During World War II, Dr. Nishimura spent five years, from age three to seven, at an internment camp in Manzanar. Despite spending his childhood in Southern California, he spoke only Japanese until the first grade.

After earning his bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from San Jose State University, Dr. Nishimura received his Doctorate in Material Science and Engineering from Stanford University. Upon completion of his education, Dr. Nishimura began his career as a test engineer with IBM. After 23 years with IBM, he was asked to join the then-regional Soletron Corporation. Coming on as the Chief Operating Officer in 1988, he quickly moved to President and then Chief Executive Officer. In 1996, he became Chairman of the Board. Dr. Nishimura has made Soletron Corporation not only the biggest company in the electronics industry, but also the most profitable. Under his leadership, Soletron was twice awarded the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, becoming the first company in the history of the program to do so.

Dr. Nishimura is very active in both the business and Japanese American communities. Currently, he serves on the Board of Trustees of the Santa Fe Institute. In addition to serving on various boards, he has been a member and the Chairman of Santa Clara University's Leavey School of Business. Dr. Nishimura has dedicated his time and energy to the Malcolm Baldrige Foundation, serving as Vice President, as well as the Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose, California, having served as a board member. In recognition of his work in the community, he was awarded the Silicon